

REMARKS

Claims 4, 5, 8, 9, and 19-36 are pending in this application. This Amendment will cancel claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 19, 20, 22-27, 29-32, 35, and 36. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue protection of any or all canceled subject matter in another application. In the specification, the FIG. 2 legend is amended to correct formalities and include applicable sequence identifiers for nucleic acid and amino acid sequences shown in FIGs. 2A, 2B, and 2C. No new matter is introduced by any of the foregoing amendments.

Entry of the amendments after final action is appropriate because the amendments are believed to place the claims in a condition for allowance. Moreover, entry of the amendments would reduce the number of claims, remove the canceled subject matter from consideration and, thereby, simplify issues for appeal.

Upon entry of the foregoing claim amendments, **claims 21, 28, 33, and 34 will be pending in this application.** Consideration of the amendments to the specification and claims herein is requested.

Allowed Claims:

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in both the final Office action and the Advisory Action that claims 21, 28, 33, and 34 are allowed.

Informal Telephone Conferences:

Applicants thank Examiner Yao for the courtesy of several helpful telephone conversations with their representative, Debra A. Gordon, Ph.D., on June 15, 2006, on June 19, 2006, and on June 21, 2006.

Claim Rejections:

The following claim rejections were issued in the Final Office Action: (i) claims 22-25 and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph (new matter); (ii) claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 19, 20, 22-27, 29-32, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph (written

description); and (iii) claims 4, 5, 8, 9, and 19-32 were rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent No. 5,952,467.

With the exception of claims 21 and 28 (discussed below), all of the rejected claims have been canceled. Each of the rejections is moot with regard to the canceled claims and should be withdrawn.

Claims 21 and 28 are rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent No. 5,952,467. Filed herewith is a "Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate a Double Patenting Rejection over a Prior Patent," where the prior patent is U.S. Patent No. 5,952,467. In view of the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer, Applicants request withdrawal of the obviousness-type double-patenting rejection of claims 21 and 28.


CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If it may facilitate such request, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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